



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

October 7, 2005

The Honorable Rush Holt  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Holt:

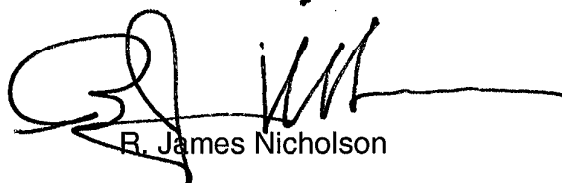
Thank you for your letter, co-signed with other members of the New Jersey congressional delegation, expressing concerns regarding the future of the Fort Monmouth Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) at the Patterson Army Health Clinic located in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. I would like to reaffirm VA's commitment in providing quality health care services to all veterans, not only in Monmouth County but throughout the state of New Jersey.

Please be assured that if Congress does not disapprove the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendations and Fort Monmouth is closed, the Fort Monmouth VA CBOC shall be maintained in its current location at least until the year 2010. If for any reason VA is required to relocate clinic services, we shall afford you the opportunity to participate in identifying a new site within Monmouth County.

I am pleased to report that the CBOC is currently at 75 percent capacity and serving over 2,500 veterans. Through August 2005, there were 6,570 total patient visits to the clinic, with veterans receiving a variety of health care services including primary health care, mental health services, nutritional support, and social work services. We look forward to continuing to provide New Jersey's veterans with timely and accessible health care in Monmouth County for years to come.

As always, your support of the services we provide to America's veterans is truly appreciated. A similar reply has been sent to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely yours,



R. James Nicholson